

## New Laws, January 2008

*The following is a sampling of important laws that went into effect in 2008. Included in the list are five bills authored by Assemblyman Solorio and several he co-authored.*

### [AB 70](#) (Jones, D-Sacramento) **Flood protection**

Cities and counties could be forced to cover a share of the damage caused by flooding if they approve new development without considering flood risks. A related bill by Sen. Mike Machado, D-Linden, will require cities and counties in the flood-prone Central Valley to follow new flood protection requirements in making land-use decisions.

### [AB 104](#) (Solorio) **Gang violence**

Allows city attorneys seeking civil injunctions to gather vital information about the subject of the injunction and reduce the impact of gang violence and illegal drug activity in the community.

### [AB 347](#) (Nava, D-Santa Barbara ) **High school exam**

Requires school districts to provide up to two years of additional instruction to any 12th-grader who has not yet passed the high school exit exam.

### [AB 369](#) (Solorio) **Foster care employees and volunteers**

Provides additional safeguards for children in foster care.

### [AB 478](#) (Wolk, D-Davis) **Illuminated bicyclists**

Requires bicyclists riding after dark on sidewalks to have functioning lights and reflectors.

### [AB 485](#) (Solorio) **Protecting special needs students**

Requires new standards for private schools offering special education services to public school children with special needs.

### [AB 645](#) (Feuer, D-Los Angeles) **Traffic violators**

Judges can no longer allow those convicted of very serious driving offenses, such as reckless driving and fleeing the scene of a traffic accident, to have those violations expunged from their records by attending traffic school.

### [AB 649](#) (Ma, D-San Francisco ) **Raises for jockeys**

In races where a jockey's horse finishes out of the top three, jockeys will receive a minimum pay increase of \$10.00 per mount.

### [AB 702](#) (Portantino, D-Pasadena ) **Truth in music**

Prohibits performers from billing themselves as the group that originally recorded the songs they play unless at least one of the performers was a member of the group and has a legal right to use the group's name.

[AB 808](#) (Parra, D-Hanford) **DUI murder charges**

Driving under the influence driver's license declaration requires applicants for a driver's license renewal to sign a declaration that states if they drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs and someone is killed as a result, they can be charged with murder.

[AB 834](#) (Hayashi, D-Hayward) **Dental Care for Kids:** Assemblyman Solorio co-authored this law. It improves and expands school and community-based dental care for low income children in grades kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

[AB 868](#) (Davis, D-Los Angeles) **Hot fuel**

California will begin work on a study of the effects of fuel temperature on consumers. Liquids like gasoline are less dense at higher temperatures, which mean consumers may receive less fuel than they have paid for.

[AB 900](#) (Solorio) **Prison reform**

Provides funding for the new construction of prisons to accommodate overcrowding and provides more rehabilitation services.

[AB 1108](#) (Ma, D-San Francisco ) **Phthalates**

Prohibits the use of phthalates, a chemical used to give added flexibility to plastics, in toys or other products designed for use by children 3 years old or younger.

[AB 1109](#) (Huffman, D-San Rafael) **Efficiency standards for lights**

Legislation by Assemblyman Huffman gives the California Energy Commission until the end of 2008 to develop tougher efficiency standards for general purpose lights. Other Huffman bills authorize a \$250 million subsidy program to encourage installation of solar water heaters and require the Energy Commission to establish water-efficiency standards for the design of new buildings.

[AB 1291](#) (Mendoza, D-Artesia ) **Helping parents of gang members**

Courts can require the parents or guardians of gang members to attend parenting classes in an attempt to prevent first-time juvenile offenders from committing additional crimes.

[AB 1548](#) (Solorio) **Text book affordability**

Provides relief for students struggling to afford the high costs of text books by providing additional publishing and sales information.

## **Senate Bills**

[SB 7](#) (Oropeza, D-Long Beach) **Smoke-free cars**

Makes it illegal to smoke in a car if there is a child inside. A violation is punishable by a fine of up to \$100. Advocates, including the American Lung Association, say the concentration of secondhand smoke inside a car can be 10 times greater than the level the Environmental Protection Agency considers hazardous to human health.

[SB 250](#) (Corbett, D-Santa Rosa) **Gift cards**

Allows consumers to redeem for cash gift cards with less than \$10 value remaining.

[SB 353](#) (Kuehl, D-Santa Monica ) **Pet protective orders**

Allows a judge to include in a protective order issued in a domestic violence case the right of one party to retain possession of a pet and to forbid the other party to come near the animal.

[SB 624](#) (Cedillo, D-Los Angeles) **Cigarette sales**

Local police departments and other law enforcement agencies are now permitted to enforce laws against selling cigarettes to minors, a responsibility that was previously the exclusive purview of the state Department of Public Health. The law also doubles the fines for a first violation, to between \$400 and \$600.

[SB 850](#) (Maldonado, R-Santa Maria and Correa, D-Santa Ana) **Certificate of still birth**

Requires county registrars to provide a certificate of still birth to parents who have lost a fetus beyond the 20th week of gestation.

[SB 880](#) (Calderon, D-Montebello) **Kangaroo parts**

Repeals an existing state prohibition on the importation into California of products containing kangaroo parts.